

## CLAIMS

1. A HCV polynucleotide molecule comprising:
  - (a) a 5'-NTR region;
  - (b) a HCV polyprotein region coding for an HCV polyprotein comprising one or more amino acid substitutions selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1148)G, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, L(1701)F, I(1984)V, T(1993)A, G(2042)C, G(2042)R, S(2404)P, L(2155)P, P(2166)L, and M(2992)T, and
  - (c) a 3'-NTR region.
2. The HCV polynucleotide encoding a polyprotein comprising any one of the amino acid substitutions according to claim 1, further comprising the amino acid substitution E(1202)G.
3. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said substitution is a G2042C or a G2042R mutation.
4. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said substitution is a K(1691)R or G(2042)C mutation.
5. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, G(2042)C, and P(2166)L.
6. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 1, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: R(1135)K, S(1560)G, K(1691)R, T(1993)A, G(2042)C, L(2155)P, and P(2166)L.
7. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 2, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: E(1202)G, I(1984)V, G(2042)C, and M(2992)T.
8. The HCV polynucleotide according to claim 2, wherein said substitution is selected from the group consisting of: S(1148)G, E(1202)G, L(1701)F, G(2042)R, and S(2404)P.